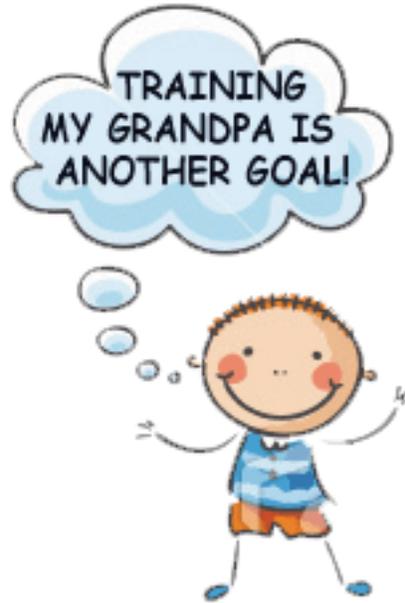


OH, to be TWO



Would you like to be two again? I would.

Two is a great age. At two you are talking, learning, and growing. At two you'll try anything and keep trying until you do it. At two there is caution but no fear. There is also no fear of failure, failure is unknown, it's just trying until you do it.

Two is an age of confidence and living life to the fullest. They sleep when needed, otherwise, they are fully engaged every second. They have not had their confidence crushed and peer judgment has not started.

Two is an age of great exploration and growth. It's exciting, action packed, and a challenge for any adult.

My wife and I spent a week vacationing with an eight year old, five year old, and a two year old. Sure, it was busy, revolved around the kids, and great fun. Fun watching them and, yes, chasing them. Kids keep the grandparents young.

It's interesting to see the free spirits, the adventure, the daring, and the learning. They do not yet have any of the peer pressure and fear of failure. They just do it. The eight year old is just starting to see and feel the peer pressure.

Kids are great teachers for adults. If they can try things, why can't we? If they don't worry about failure, why shouldn't we? If they engage fully with life, why shouldn't we? The answers are, we can and we should. It's that simple.

Kids notice things we don't. They'll stop, research, ask, and then move on. Adults are often preoccupied and in a rush such that we don't take the time.

Years ago my mother told me, 'be a kid'. The longer I live and the more I watch grandchildren, the more I appreciate her words of wisdom.

Adults get too caught up in life, peer pressure, and expectations. Too often we fail to live, truly live, and enjoy the moment. Spend time with kids and you'll see, see their excitement, see their ability to live in the moment, and see their ability to throw you completely off the schedule you had planned.

Me, I live by a schedule and always try to be on time or even a little early. Spend a week with kids and you are not likely to be on time. Guess what? Life goes on. It's not earth shattering to be late.

Decide to spend some time watching a kid play. Focus on the free spirit, the carefree attitude, and the ability to do and keep doing until they succeed. Now, work on being a kid. You'll get more out of life.